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EXAMINER

DAY, HERNG DER

ART UNIT

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2128

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/647,796

Applicant(s)

GLOZMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Herng-der Day

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18-39 and 41-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18-39 and 41-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 August 2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to Applicants' Response ("Response") to Office Action dated April 19, 2007, filed August 15, 2007.

1-1. Claims 1, 18, 19, 23, 41, 42, 44, and 45 have been amended. Claims 46-48 have been added. Claims 1-16, 18-39, and 41-48 are pending.

1-2. Claims 1-16, 18-39, and 41-48 have been examined and rejected.

### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings filed on August 15, 2007, are objected to for the following reason.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the Examiner, the Applicants will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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2-1. As shown in Fig. 11, it appears that the "Osteotomy" as described in the amended block should be "Application of a template for specific osteotomy such as Hallux Valgus".

2-2. Some of the text shown in FIG. 1 and Fig. 11 are too small to be read.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 1 has two different steps both named "c".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5-1. Claim 48 recites the limitations "The apparatus" and "said displayed image" in line 1 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for each of these limitations in the claim. For the purpose of claim examination, the Examiner will presume that claim 48 is a dependent claim of claim 23.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-16, 18-39, and 41-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krause et al., U.S. Patent 6,711,432 B1 issued March 23, 2004 and filed October 23, 2000, in view of Kenet et al., U.S. Patent 5,016,173 issued May 14, 1991.

7-1. Regarding claim 1, Krause et al. disclose a method for preoperative planning and simulating of an orthopedic surgical procedure to be performed on an anatomical structure, using medical images of the anatomical structure, comprising inter alia:

- b. obtaining and displaying the medical images of the anatomical structure [along with said real dimension unit] prior to said orthopedic surgical procedure (X-ray or fluoroscopic images of a patient's bone, column 6, lines 18-20; several regular X-ray images of the patient (which are typically taken before any surgery), column 6, lines 42-51);

- c. segmenting the anatomical structure into segments in said medical images prior to said orthopedic surgical procedure (Segmentation, column 6, lines 52-57); and

- d. using the obtained medical images comprising said [calibrated] imaged anatomical structure, planning a result of the orthopedic surgical procedure to be performed on the

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anatomical structure, so output images are produced, wherein the obtained output images comprise at least one feature selected from the group consisting of: a plurality of calibrated organs; a plurality of organ segments; a plurality of calibrated artificial elements; and at least one superposition of said calibrated artificial elements on said calibrated organs or organ segments (Figure 4).

Krause et al. fail to expressly disclose a. providing a real dimension unit defining a length, to appear in an image with said anatomical structure for providing calibration of the imaged anatomical structure.

Kenet et al. disclose, "Once an image has been captured, calibration 314 of the image is performed to calibrate for absolute distances and to correct for spatial, color, or intensity distortions due to the acquisition equipment and circumstances. ... For example, an image of a ruler or grid may be obtained during a calibration session, or simultaneously with the image of the surface structure of interest." (Kenet, column 10, lines 40-51). In other word, associated with an image of a ruler in it, the image of interest becomes a calibrated image.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Krause et al. to incorporate the teachings of Kenet et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1 because as suggested by Kenet et al., an image of a ruler obtained simultaneously with the image of the surface structure of interest would calibrate for absolute distances and to correct for spatial distortions due to the acquisition equipment and circumstances.

**7-2.** Regarding claim 2, Krause et al. further disclose comprising dynamic rendering of medical device from pre defined members, the method allowing dynamic rendering of medical devices with a pre defined relationship, wherein two or more members can be integrated to one

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member in runtime according to a predefined rule (multifunctional markers 110, column 10, line 25-28).

7-3. Regarding claim 3, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said medical images are X-ray images (regular X-ray images, column 6, lines 42-51).

7-4. Regarding claim 4, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said medical images are a combination of plurality of imaging techniques (fusing selective volumetric MRI/CAT scan data, column 8, lines 4-14).

7-5. Regarding claim 5, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said medical images comprise a plurality of views of said anatomical structure (a series of two-dimension representations of the patient's bone, column 6, lines 42-51).

7-6. Regarding claim 6, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the obtaining step comprises transforming of said medical images to digital images (until the projections of the 3D bone model 84, 86 match the X-ray or other images 83 of the patient's bone, column 7, lines 21-44).

7-7. Regarding claim 7, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said obtaining includes composing of several images of the same anatomical structure into a full-length view of said anatomical structure (use several regular X-ray images of the patient, column 6, lines 42-51).

7-8. Regarding claim 8, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the obtaining step comprises calibrating of images (An additional level of free-form deformation may be added for additional accuracy, column 7, lines 45-51).

7-9. Regarding claim 9, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said calibrating comprises registration of different views (to more closely match the two-dimensional segmented bone images, column 7, lines 9-17).

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**7-10.** Regarding claim 10, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said calibrating comprises dimension and orientation calibration (the 3D template bone model 88 is reshaped to resemble the patient's actual bone 82, column 7, lines 9-17).

**7-11.** Regarding claim 11, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said calibrating comprises image enhancements comprising brightness and contrast adjustments, and edge detection (The software then determines how the template bone model should be altered to more accurately depict the patient's actual misaligned bone, column 7, lines 5-8).

**7-12.** Regarding claim 12, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the segmenting step is performed in at least one of a group of ways, comprising: manual performance by a medical expert, automatic performance, wherein the anatomical structure segments are segmented according to predefined rules, and semi-automatic performance, wherein the segmenting step is performed automatically with the assistance of a medical expert (Segmentation may be accomplished using a light board and digitizing stylus, column 6, lines 54-57).

**7-13.** Regarding claim 13, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the planning step comprises simulating different positioning of said anatomical structure segments (determine the appropriate locations, column 10, lines 8-17).

**7-14.** Regarding claim 14, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said different positioning of said anatomical structure segments relates to reducing of fractures during trauma treatment (apply the present system to obtain an exact realignment of the fractured bone, column 17, lines 34-40).

**7-15.** Regarding claim 15, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said different positioning of said anatomical structure segments relates to pre designed osteotomy treatments (determine the



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appropriate locations for the double osteotomy or other multiple orthopedic procedures, column 10, lines 8-17).

**7-16.** Regarding claim 16, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said artificial elements comprising implants, in the manner that superposition of implants and said segmented anatomical structure over non-segmented fragments of said anatomical structure is provided (multifunctional markers 110, column 10, line 25-28).

**7-17.** Regarding claim 18, Krause et al. further disclose comprising a step of choosing a plurality of fixation elements from a predefined database (the guides and markers 110 have already been modeled by the planning computer, column 10, lines 34-42).

**7-18.** Regarding claim 19, Krause et al. further disclose comprising rules for correct positioning of said fixation elements so incorrect positioning of said fixation elements is prevented (determine the appropriate locations, column 10, lines 8-17).

**7-19.** Regarding claim 20, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said planning comprises producing and storing the output images and planning reports of a plurality of alternatives of said steps of segmenting and planning, for the purpose that the best alternative for medical treatment is selected from said alternatives; said planning report comprising part definition of said calibrated artificial elements selected for the treatment as well as patient information (determine the appropriate locations, column 10, lines 8-17); said planning report comprising part definition of said artificial elements selected for the treatment as well as patient information (preliminary surgical plan, column 10, lines 46-62).

**7-20.** Regarding claim 21, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising a step of providing hard copies of said output images and said planning reports of a selected set of said

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alternatives (The surgical plan may be sent to the surgeon using various media types, column 11, lines 19-27).

**7-21.** Regarding claim 22, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising a step of communicating said output images and said planning reports to a plurality of remote users (to remotely access other experts, column 2, lines 48-58).

**7-22.** Regarding claim 23, Krause et al. disclose an apparatus for pre planning and simulating of an orthopedic surgical procedure to be performed on an anatomical structure, using medical images of the anatomical structure, the apparatus comprising;

- b. segmenting means for defining and marking anatomical structure segments in the medical images of the anatomical structure (Segmentation, column 6, lines 52-57);

- c. planning means for planning a result of said orthopedic surgical procedure to be performed on the anatomical structure, using the [calibrated] medical images of the anatomical structure, the planning means comprising means for producing output images; wherein said output images comprise at least one feature selected from the group consisting of a plurality of calibrated organs; a plurality of organ segments; a plurality of calibrated artificial elements; and at least one superposition of said calibrated artificial elements on said calibrated organs and organ segments (Figure 4);

- d. a memory for storing said medical images and a desired result (a planning computer ... has developed a detailed preliminary surgical plan, column 11, lines 15-19); and,

- e. a display for displaying said [calibrated] medical images and said output images (The surgeon can preferably view the 3D computer simulation or other plan of the surgery, column 11, lines 19-27).

Krause et al. fail to expressly disclose a. a real dimension unit defining a length, to appear in an image with said anatomical structure for providing calibration of the imaged anatomical structure.

Kenet et al. disclose, "Once an image has been captured, calibration 314 of the image is performed to calibrate for absolute distances and to correct for spatial, color, or intensity distortions due to the acquisition equipment and circumstances. ... For example, an image of a ruler or grid may be obtained during a calibration session, or simultaneously with the image of the surface structure of interest." (Kenet, column 10, lines 40-51). In other word, associated with an image of a ruler in it, the image of interest becomes a calibrated image.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Krause et al. to incorporate the teachings of Kenet et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 23 because as suggested by Kenet et al., an image of a ruler obtained simultaneously with the image of the surface structure of interest would calibrate for absolute distances and to correct for spatial distortions due to the acquisition equipment and circumstances.

**7-23.** Regarding claim 24, Krause et al. further disclose comprising means for dynamic rendering of medical device from pre defined members, allowing dynamic rendering of medical devices with a pre defined relationship, wherein two or more members can be integrated to one member in runtime according to a predefined rule (multifunctional markers 110, column 10, line 25-28).

**7-24.** Regarding claim 25, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the medical images are X-ray images (regular X-ray images, column 6, lines 42-51).

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**7-25.** Regarding claim 26, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the medical images are combination of a plurality of imaging techniques (fusing selective volumetric MRI/CAT scan data, column 8, lines 4-14).

**7-26.** Regarding claim 27, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the medical images comprise a plurality of views of the same anatomical structures (a series of two-dimension representations of the patient's bone, column 6, lines 42-51).

**7-27.** Regarding claim 28, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising means for transforming said medical images to digital images (until the projections of the 3D bone model 84, 86 match the X-ray or other images 83 of the patient's bone, column 7, lines 21-44).

**7-28.** Regarding claim 29, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising means for composing of several images of the same anatomical structure into a full-length view of said anatomical structure (use several regular X-ray images of the patient, column 6, lines 42-51).

**7-29.** Regarding claim 30, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising calibration means for images (An additional level of free-form deformation may be added for additional accuracy, column 7, lines 45-51).

**7-30.** Regarding claim 31, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the calibration means are also utilized for registration of different views (to more closely match the two-dimensional segmented bone images, column 7, lines 9-17).

**7-31.** Regarding claim 32, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the calibration means are also utilized for dimension and orientation calibration (the 3D template bone model 88 is reshaped to resemble the patient's actual bone 82, column 7, lines 9-17).

**7-32.** Regarding claim 33, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the calibration means are also utilized for image enhancements (The software then determines how the template bone model

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should be altered to more accurately depict the patient's actual misaligned bone, column 7, lines 5-8).

**7-33.** Regarding claim 34, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the calibration means are also utilized for correction of image distortions (The software then determines how the template bone model should be altered to more accurately depict the patient's actual misaligned bone, column 7, lines 5-8).

**7-34.** Regarding claim 35, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the segmenting means are manually operated by a medical expert or wherein the segmenting means are automatically operated according to predefined rules, or wherein the segmenting means are operated semi-automatically in the manner that the segmenting step is performed automatically with the assistance of a medical expert (Segmentation may be accomplished using a light board and digitizing stylus, column 6, lines 54-57).

**7-35.** Regarding claim 36, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the planning means are additionally utilized for simulating different positioning of said anatomical structure segments (determine the appropriate locations, column 10, lines 8-17).

**7-36.** Regarding claim 37, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the planning means are utilized for simulating reduction of fractures during trauma treatment (apply the present system to obtain an exact realignment of the fractured bone, column 17, lines 34-40).

**7-37.** Regarding claim 38, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said different positioning of said anatomical structure segments relates to pre designed osteotomy treatments for deformed anatomical structures (determine the appropriate locations for the double osteotomy or other multiple orthopedic procedures, column 10, lines 8-17).

**7-38.** Regarding claim 39, Krause et al. further disclose wherein the artificial elements comprise implants, in the manner that superposition of implants and said segmented anatomical structure over non-segmented fragments of said anatomical structure is provided (multifunctional markers 110, column 10, line 25-28).

**7-39.** Regarding claim 41, Krause et al. further disclose comprising a predefined database comprising predefined sets of fixation elements (the guides and markers 110 have already been modeled by the planning computer, column 10, lines 34-42).

**7-40.** Regarding claim 42, Krause et al. further disclose comprising means for correct positioning of said fixation elements so incorrect positioning of said fixation elements is prevented (determine the appropriate locations, column 10, lines 8-17).

**7-41.** Regarding claim 43, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising a means for producing and storing planning reports of plurality of alternatives, for the purpose that the best alternative for medical treatment is selected from said alternatives (determine the appropriate locations, column 10, lines 8-17), said planning reports comprising part definition of said calibrated artificial elements selected for the medical treatment and patient information (preliminary surgical plan, column 10, lines 46-62).

**7-42.** Regarding claim 44, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising a hard copy producer configured to produce hard copies of said output images and said planning reports of a selected set of said alternatives (The surgical plan may be sent to the surgeon using various media types, column 11, lines 19-27).

**7-43.** Regarding claim 45, Krause et al. further disclose additionally comprising a communication device for communicating said output images and said planning reports to remote users (to remotely access other experts, column 2, lines 48-58).

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**7-44.** Regarding claim 46, Kenet et al. further disclose wherein said real dimension unit comprises an object of a known length (an image of a ruler ... may be obtained ... simultaneously with the image of the surface structure of interest, column 10, lines 49-51).

**7-45.** Regarding claim 47, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said medical images of the anatomical structure are imaged on an imager remote from the location of the orthopedic surgical procedure (several regular X-ray images of the patient (which are typically taken before any surgery), column 6, lines 42-51).

**7-46.** Regarding claim 48, Krause et al. further disclose wherein said displayed image comprises a final image for the orthopedic surgical procedure (a planning computer ... has developed a detailed preliminary surgical plan, ... The surgical plan may be sent to the surgeon using various media types including: still images and illustrations, column 11, lines 15-25).

### ***Applicants' Arguments***

**8.** Applicants argue the following:

**8-1.** Claim 1 Amendments to "Prior To Said Orthopedic Surgical Procedure"

(1) "Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish over Krause et al who teach imaging techniques that require in vivo markers to be surgically affixed to the bone during surgery".

(Page 9, Response)

**8-2.** Claims 1 and 2 Amendments to "A Structure Defining A Unit Of Dimension Unit"

(2) Krause et al. do not disclosed the added new limitations including "a real dimension unit". (Pages 10-11)

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(3) "Amended claims 1 and 23 are clearly novel and inventive and thus allowable over the prior art of Krause et al thereby rendering all claims allowable that depend on claims 1 and 23." (Page 12, paragraph 1, Response)

### ***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered.

9-1. Applicants' argument (1) is not persuasive. Krause et al. disclose at column 11, lines 36-38, "Once the patient's bone has been properly modeled and/or a preliminary surgical plan has been developed, the patient is ready to undergo the actual orthopedic surgical procedure." In other words, Krause et al. expressly disclose that a preliminary surgical plan has been developed prior to the patient's actual orthopedic surgical procedure. Specifically, it is not Krause's "final surgical plan" but Krause's "preliminary surgical plan" which anticipates the argued limitation.

9-2. Applicants' arguments (2)-(3) are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as detailed in sections 7 to 7-46. The rejections of claims 1-16, 18-39, and 41-45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) in Office Action dated April 19, 2007, have been withdrawn.

### ***Conclusion***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure.

Reference to Kienzle, III et al., U.S. Patent 6,285,902 B1 issued September 4, 2001, is cited as disclosing a computer assisted targeting device for use in orthopaedic surgery.



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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Herng-der Day whose telephone number is (571) 272-3777. The Examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 17:30.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: (571) 272-2100.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kamini S. Shah can be reached on (571) 272-2279. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Herng-der Day  
September 17, 2007

H.D.

  
KAMINI SHAH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER